

## Message Text

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46

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 PM-03 L-03 NSC-05 CIAE-00

DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02

EB-07 AID-05 IO-10 /079 W

----- 113691

R 061723Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3567

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY ACCRA

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 LONDON 12134

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y LAST LINE TEXT

S.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, OAU

SUBJ: FCO THOUGHTS ON OAU SUMMIT

1. EMBASSY OFFICER CALLED ON MARK HEATH, HEAD, FCO WEST  
AFRICAN DEPARTMENT, AUGUST 5 FOR BRITISH VIEW ON OAU  
SUMMIT. HEATH APOLOGIZED THAT HE HAD LITTLE TO PASS ON  
ABOUT THE CONFERENCE AND SHOWED EMBASSY OFFICER FOUR  
RATHER MEAGER REPORTING CABLES FROM HICOM KAMPALA. HIS  
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IMPRESSION IS THAT CONFERENCE IN FACT ACCOMPLISHED VERY

LITTLE. OVERSHADOWED BY THE COUP AGAINST GOWON AND THE PREMATURE DEPARTURE OF SEVERAL OTHER HEADS OF STATE, THE SUMMIT LACKED FOCUS AND MOMENTUM.

2. HEATH SUGGESTED THAT THE FAILURE OF THE MEETING TO ADOPT A RESOLUTION CALLING FOR THE EXPULSION OF ISRAEL FROM THE UNITED NATIONS INDICATED TWO EMERGING ATTITUDES IN SUB-SAHARA AFRICA. FIRST, THAT AFRO-ARAB SOLIDARITY IS A CONCEPT MEANT TO APPLY TO THE PROBLEMS OF THE AFRICAN CONTINENT AND SHOULD NOT NECESSARILY BE APPLIED TO ISSUES LYING OUTSIDE AFRICAN TERRITORY, NOTABLY PALESTINE SECOND, THE ROSES AND VIOLINS THAT ACCOMPANIED THE INITIAL YEARS OF AFRO-ARAB SOLIDARITY ARE FADING BELOW THE SAHARA, AND THERE IS A NEW WHAT-HAVE-YOU-DONE-FOR-ME-LATELY ATTITUDE TOWARDS THE ARABS, NOTABLY ON OIL AND AID. AFRICAN OPPOSITION TO THE RESOLUTION WAS NOT WIDESPREAD BUT SUFFICIENT TO DEMONSTRATE AN INDEPENDENCE OF THOUGHT AMONG AT LEAST SOME OF THE NON-ALIGNED. KENYA AND ZAIRE, BOTH FRIENDLY WITH THE ISRAELIS UNTIL THE 1970S, APPARENTLY LED THE DOGGED OPPOSITION EITHER IN SESSIONS

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DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02

EB-07 AID-05 IO-10 /079 W

----- 101702

R 061723Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3568

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

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OR IN CORRIDORS.

3. THE REPORTEDLY RIGID RESOLUTION ON DIALOGUE IN SOUTH AFRICA (FCO AS YET HAS NO TEXTS) REFLECTED MORE THE ABSENCE OF LEADERS MOST CONCERNED WITH DEVELOPMENTS IN THE SOUTHERN THIRD OF THE CONTINENT THAN A HARDENING OF PURPOSE IN THE OAU. THE MAJORITY OF DELEGATES RECOGNIZED THAT A DRAMA IS UNFOLDING IN THE SOUTH AND THAT THE PARTS ARE BEST ACTED OUT BY THOSE ALREADY ON THE STAGE.  
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4. OTHER RESOLUTIONS WERE ESSENTIALLY SIMILAR IN THEIR STAND-BACK CHARACTER. DESPITE THE APPOINTMENT OF AN OAU COMMISSION, THE PROBLEMS OF ANGOLA ARE BEST LEFT TO THE ANGOLANS. ETHIOPIANS ARE BEST SUITED TO WORK OUT THE DIFFICULTIES OF ERITREA; MOROCCO AND MAURITANIA MUST THEMSELVES SORT OUT THEIR RIVALRY IN SPANISH SAHARA.

5. HEATH THOUGHT THAT FOR IDI AMIN THE SUMMIT CAME OFF AS A SUCCESS. TANZANIA'S VILIFICATION OF AMIN JUST BEFORE THE OPENING OF THE CONFERENCE WAS LARGELY OVERLOOKED BY THE DELEGATES AND THE FIELD MARSHALL HIMSELF. THE TREATMENT OF THE GUESTS IN KAMPALA WAS SUMPTUOUS AND THE ENTERTAINMENT LAVISH. AMIN PROMISED HIS COLLEAGUES THAT HE WOULD BEHAVE AND IN RETURN HE BECAME CHAIRMAN OF THE ORGANIZATION; HE GAINED FROM THE PREVIOUS OCCUPANTS OF THE POSITION AN ESSENCE OF RESPECTABILITY AND LEGITIMACY HE COULD NOT EASILY HAVE ACHIEVED HIMSELF.

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